

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented speech recognition system comprising:

a microphone to receive user speech;
a speech recognition engine coupled to the microphone, and being adapted to recognize the user speech and provide a textual output on a user interface; and
wherein the system is adapted to recognize a user changing the textual output and automatically, selectively adapt the speech recognition engine to learn from the change.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is further adapted to infer whether the user is changing the textual output due to a recognition error.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the recognition engine includes a user lexicon, and wherein the user lexicon is updated if the correction is a word that is not in the user's lexicon.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the recognition engine is adapted to determine if the user's pronunciation caused the error, and selectively learn the new pronunciation.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the recognition engine is adapted determine if the user's

pronunciation caused the error, and selectively modify a probability associated with an existing pronunciation.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the system is adapted to add at least one word pair to the user lexicon if the correction is not due to a new word, or a new pronunciation.
7. A method of learning with an automatic speech recognition system, the method comprising:
 - detecting a change to dictated text;
 - inferring whether the change is a correction, or editing; and
 - if the change is inferred to be a correction, selectively learning from the nature of the correction without additional user interaction.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein inferring whether the change is a correction includes detecting whether the user selected from an alternate list to make the change.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein inferring whether the change is a correction includes measuring the amount of time between dictation and the change.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein inferring whether the change is a correction includes comparing a

speech recognition engine score of the dictated text and of the changed text.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein inferring includes detecting the number of words changed.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein selectively learning from the nature of the correction includes determining if the corrected word exists in the user's lexicon, and adding the corrected word to the lexicon if it does not already exist.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:
if the corrected word does exist in the user
lexicon, selectively learning from the
nature of the correction further includes,
determining if the user's pronunciation
deviated from existing pronunciations
known by the system; and
selectively learning the pronunciation.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein determining if the user's pronunciation deviated from existing pronunciations includes doing a forced alignment of the wave based on at least one context word if such word exists.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein determining if the user's pronunciation deviated from existing

pronunciations includes identifying in the wave the pronunciation of the corrected word.

16. The method of claim 15, and further comprising building a lattice based upon possible pronunciations of the corrected word and the recognition result.

17. The method of claim 16, and further comprising generating a confidence score based at least in part upon the distance of the newly identified pronunciation with existing pronunciations.

18. The method of claim 16, and further comprising generating a confidence score based at least in part upon an Acoustic Model score of the newly identified pronunciation with existing pronunciations.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein selectively learning the pronunciation includes comparing the confidence score to a threshold.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein selectively learning the pronunciation further includes determining whether the new pronunciation has occurred a pre-selected number of times.

21. The method of claim 7, selectively learning from the nature of the correction includes adding at least one word pair to the user's lexicon.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein at least one word pair is added to the user's lexicon temporarily.